



# Portrait Commissions: A No Return Policy

Understanding the Implications for Artists and Clients

## No Return Policy for Portrait Paintings and Drawings

When commissioning a portrait, whether a painting or a drawing, it is essential to understand the common practice of implementing a no return policy. This policy is typically in place due to several key reasons that protect both the artist and the client. Below are the primary justifications for a no return policy in portrait art:

### Unique and Custom Nature

- **Customization:** Portraits are highly personalized and tailored to the client's specific requests. Artists invest significant time and effort to capture the likeness and essence of the subject.
- **Non-Resalable:** Due to their custom nature, portraits cannot be easily resold to another client. Each piece is created with the individual preferences of the original client in mind.

### Time and Skill Investment

- **Artistic Process:** Creating a portrait involves a detailed artistic process that requires years of training and skill. Artists dedicate considerable hours to perfect each piece.
- **Materials Used:** Artists often use high-quality materials that incur costs, which are factored into the pricing. These materials cannot be reused once a portrait is completed.

### Communication and Approval

- **Client Involvement:** To ensure satisfaction, artists may involve clients in the process through preliminary sketches or updates. This collaboration helps align the artist's work with the client's vision.
- **Approval Stages:** Some artists include approval stages where the client can request minor adjustments, ensuring the final product meets expectations before completion.

## Protecting Artistic Integrity

- **Creative Control:** Artists value their creative expression and maintain a certain level of control over the final product. A no return policy helps protect the integrity of their work.
- **Avoiding Misuse:** This policy prevents scenarios where a client might misuse the return system, such as commissioning a portrait for temporary use and then returning it.

## Setting Clear Expectations

- **Contractual Agreements:** Artists often establish a clear agreement at the outset, detailing the no return policy. This transparency helps manage expectations and prevent misunderstandings.
- **Policy Awareness:** Clients are encouraged to thoroughly review and understand the terms before commissioning a portrait, ensuring they are comfortable with the policy.

In conclusion, while a no return policy for portrait paintings and drawings may seem stringent, it serves to uphold the value and integrity of the artwork. It ensures that artists are fairly compensated for their unique creations and that clients receive a personalized and valuable piece of art.